# Stowmarket Urban District Council.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1913.

STOWMARKET:
PRINTED BY J. NEWBY, 45 IPSWICH STREET.

TO THE

# Chairman and Members

OF THE

# Stowmarket Urban District Council.

---

JANUARY, 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of Stowmarket for the year ending 31st December, 1913.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

I have based the following statistics on a population of 4246. This figure is obtained by calculation from the factor given by the Registrar General for the year 1913.

Birth Rate 24·7 per 1000

During the year there were 105 births (boys 52, girls 53), which gives a Birth Rate of 24·7 per 1000 as compared with 21·2 per 1000 last year. Four births were illegitimate.

Death Rate 10·3 per 1000

The number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 39 (25 males, 14 females), compared with 49 last year. Six deaths of residents not registered in the district and one of a non-resident registered in the district occurred, leaving a nett total of 44 and a Death Rate of 10·3 per 1000; as compared with 12·9 per 1000 last year, and an average rate of 14·2 for the previous five years.*

Infant Mortality 52·6 per 1000 nett Births.

There were five deaths of infants under one year of age registered, equal to an infant mortality of 52·6 per 1000 births, compared with 66·6 per 1000 Births last year.

There were no deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

There were three deaths from Phthisis and four from Cancer.

* The general death rate for the area as calculated from the factor given by the Registrar General upon the populations enumerated in 1911 works out at 8·8 per 1000.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were only four notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year, compared with nine last year and twenty-eight in 1911.

Diphtheria 2
Erysipelas 2

There were seven cases of Phthisis notified, and one case of Tuberculosis other than Phthisis.

With regard to the cases of diphtheria, the following defects were found :—

Case No. 1—Well water analysed and condemned. The town water has been laid on.

Case No. 2—Well water condemned. The town water has been laid on.

With regard to the two cases of Erysipelas, the premises were inspected and in one case the following defects were noted :—Bedroom damp, house dirty, pump water suspicious. In the other case no defects were found.

## GENERAL SANITARY REPORT.

Bakehouses.

Ten in number. 40 inspections and occasional surprise visits. Their condition has been entirely satisfactory, with the exception of one which has had an entirely new roof and one roof has been ceiled.

Slaughter-houses.

Seven in number. 28 inspections. One has been reconstructed and one put into proper repair, the external wall being built in brick work instead of wood.

Slaughter houses generally have been kept in a very clean condition. All defects have been remedied.

Cow Sheds and Dairies.

Three Cow Sheds. 12 inspections. These have been kept clean. More attention has been given to keeping the cows well groomed before milking. One purveyor of milk has been registered. The milk is not stored on the premises. The general cleanliness of the cans is satisfactory. No cases of infectious disease traced to any milk supply.

Common Lodging Houses.

Two in number. Six inspections and occasional surprise visits. A few minor defects such as walls and troughing out of repair, attended to. Houses generally have been kept very clean.

Factory Acts.

Total number of factories 79. 120 inspections. Defects found in one workshop :—Floor out of repair, staircase in bad repair and dangerous, ventilation bad. New floor, new staircase and new windows have been provided.

One workshop, ventilation not sufficient. Three outworkers premises visited. No defects found.

Refuse Disposal.

Collected twice a week, deposited on the pumping station meadow and burned, total number of loads dealt with being 1379. The refuse cart has now been provided with a proper cover.

The majority of refuse receptacles which are used, are placed on the pavement, and are prohibited by the bye-laws, and are a great nuisance to the general public. The night soil from earth closets and privies is carted and deposited on the Council's field, situated in the Bury Road, about a mile from the town. Fifty-eight loads have been disposed of and thirty-two loads from dead wells. Main roads and other roads have been disinfected with Izal from 1st March to 30th September.

Sewerage.

The sewage from the town gravitates to the main pumping station and from there is pumped up to the sewage farm through an 11 inch rising main and then through filtering tanks. The sludge is separated and the effluent flows on the land through carriers provided, the final purification being through the osier beds from whence it gravitates to the river Gipping. 73,307,000 gallons of sewage and surface water were dealt with during the year as compared with 62,230,000 in 1912, an increase of 11,000,000 gallons. The area of the farm is 30 acres and is governed by a joint committee of Stowmarket Urban and East Stow Rural District Councils.

The farm is managed by the Surveyor of the Stowmarket Urban District Council, Mr. G. W. Lingwood. Mr. G. Midgley Taylor, of the firm of Messrs. John Taylor & Sons, Civil Engineers, Westminster, the expert called in by the Stowmarket Urban District Council to report on the sewage farm and other works, reported as follows :—

> "The condition of the sewage farm and the general working thereof meets with my approval and reflects great credit on the management. The land was in a clean and satisfactory state and the effluent at the time of my visit extremely satisfactory."

Sewers.

The Council have passed a resolution to carry out a complete scheme for the whole of the butt pipe sewers in the urban district and the following sewers will be reconstructed with glazed socketed pipes :—

Tavern Street
Violet Hill
Violet Hill Road
Union Street
Church Lane
Bury Street (part)
Childer Road (rear of)
Ipswich Street
Finborough Road
Crown Street

The whole of the existing sewers will be left in for surface water and taken direct to the river.

Pumping is now carried out both by day and night and in this way pollution of the river Gipping is prevented.

The total number of privies in the Urban District is 32. 28 of these are in the drainage area. There are 25 earth closets. 19 of these are in the drainage area.

Six privies and one earth closet have been condemned and abolished. Seven new water closets have been erected in their place. Nine water closets have been pulled down and rebuilt. Fifty-nine water closets have been put in repair from defects found. Eight houses, with only three closets, have had five more erected. Five houses with three closets, pulled down, and five new closets erected.

Two houses one closet, one more erected.

There are two detritus chambers for intercepting the silt from high level to low level sewers. 27 loads of silt have been removed from the chambers during the year and none from the main intercepting sewer.

Two manure bins have been condemned—one has been abolished, one new one constructed and properly covered in.

Nuisances.

Premises were inspected from 15 complaints received during the year and following defects were found :—Removal of manure in uncovered carts, defective manure bins, defective closet and urinal, rain water pipes not trapped, butt pipe drains, drains blocked, river polluted from defective drainage, water closet without ventilation, out of repair and apparatus defective, dampness through defective rain water pipes.

Notices were served, and all have been compiled with except three. In two cases orders have been given for the work to be done.

Other inspections made during the year disclosed the following defects :—Water closets no ventilation, drains blocked, overcrowding, sinks not trapped, closet dilapidated, urinal defective, house dirty and damp, rain water pipes not trapped, butt pipe drains, traps defective, drains not ventilated. All the notices complied with excepting five. The order has been given for work to be done in these cases.

Dead Wells.

Only six dead wells in the Urban area served by the sewers. Total number in the whole district is 19. Five can be done away with when the new sewers are laid. The others are in the rural portion of the Urban area. Two have been condemned and abolished.

Water Supply.

Five cases have been reported of well water being unfit for drinking purposes. Three wells have been closed and the town water laid on to eleven houses. One well supplying six houses has been classed as suspicious and one which supplies twelve houses will be closed and the town water laid on.

The Candy Filter Co. have erected a filtering plant to treat the town water supply. This plant removes all the iron from the water and reduces the hardness 50%. A very great improvement has resulted. In view of this improvement it is the duty of the Council to substitute this supply for that from shallow wells, as far as possible.

Unsound Meat. Ph. Act 1875.

No action taken.

Food and Drugs Act.

Fish seized and condemned in open market.

House Accommodation.

Twelve houses erected. In course of erection four, and one house and shop converted into two.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

381 houses have been inspected during the year, nineteen cases of overcrowding noted. One has been abated. 55 houses had no defects. 138 houses have been put in proper repair during the year.

No houses condemned as unfit for habitation.

No closing orders issued.

No representation made to local authority with a view to making closing orders.

One owner and agent controls 77 houses in which defects have been noted. Out of that number eleven have been remedied, 37 not completed and 29 no orders given. One builder has had the order given him to put in proper repair 54 houses. Work not commenced. These were all inspected between Jan. 1912 and March, 1913.

| Streets. | No. of Houses Inspected. | Defects. | Overcrowding. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bridge Street ... | ... 96 | 88 | Nine |
| Bond Street ... | ... 42 | 28 | Three |
| Stowupland Street | ... 38 | 31 | Nil |
| Violet Hill ... | ... 29 | 28 | Nil |
| Violet Hill Road | ... 39 | 34 | Two |
| Lime Tree Place | ... 112 | 92 | Five |
| Milton Road ... | ... 25 | 25 | Nil |

Houses having two bedrooms, 408. Houses having one bedroom 28. Total number of houses inspected to date, 745. The total number of houses, the occupants of which work in the rural district, 203. The following defects were found :—

*Stowupland Street*—Five houses : ventilation bad, floors defective paving, bad, walls out of repair, three water closets to five houses. All repairs carried out and five new water closets erected.

*Milton Road*—Ten houses, floors in bad repair and damp. Work carried out.

*Stowupland Street*—Four houses roof out of repair, ventilations of bedrooms bad, windows out of repair, troughing defective, paving defective. Work carried out.

*Union Street*—Two houses, ventilation bad and defective floors. Work carried out.

*Violet Hill*—Seventeen houses. Ten houses floors defective, roof in bad repair, ceilings out of repair, paving bad, ventilation bad, floors damp.

Seven houses, windows fixed, paving defective, brick floors damp. Work done.

*Violet Hill Road*—Three houses, ventilation bad, floors damp, paving defective. Work carried out.

*Cardinalls Road*—Seventeen houses, floors defective, roof out of repair, paving defective, walls damp. Work carried out.

*Bridge Street*—Fifteen houses, paving defective, brick floor damp, windows out of repair. Work carried out.

*Church Lane*—Four houses, paving defective, floors damp. Work carried out.

*Lime Tree Place*—Twenty-seven houses, paving defective, windows fixed, floors damp. Work carried out.

*Bury Street*—Eleven houses, ventilation bad, paving defective, damp floors, windows out of repair. Work carried out.

*Regent Street*—Fifteen houses, paving defective, ventilation bad, floors damp. Work carried out.

*Bond Street*—Eight houses, paving defective, damp floors. Work carried out.

*Bridge Street*—Seventy-three houses, paving defective, floors defective. Nine houses overcrowded.

*Bond Street*—Twenty houses, paving defective, floors defective. Three overcrowded.

*Stowupland Street*—Twenty-two houses, two houses very damp, all floors defective, paving bad. Thirty houses, floors damp, three cases ventilation bad.

*Violet Hill*—Eleven houses, floors defective.

*Violet Hill Road*—Thirty-one houses, four houses floors damp, twelve in bad repair, chimney dangerous, windows fixed. Seven houses, paving bad, houses damp, defective floors. Four houses, floors damp. Eight houses, paving bad, floors damp. Two out of eight overcrowded. Outbuildings dilapidated—privy accommodation six houses, wash houses in bad repair, paving defective, privy accommodation. Two houses, floors out of repair.

*Lime Tree Place*—Sixty-five houses, five overcrowded, defects, paving and floor damp.

*Milton Road*—Fifteen, floors damp, paving defective.

In most cases orders have been given for the necessary work to be done.

Inspection in the following streets has been completed: Bury Street, Bury Road, Crown Street, Union Street, Regent Street, Cardinalls Road, Sick House Lane, Ham Row, Church Lane, Church Walk, Bridge Street, Bond Street, Stowupland Street, Violet Hill, Violet Hill Road, Lime Tree Place, part of Milton Road.

Total number of inspections made during the year under the Housing Act, 663. Under other acts, 407. Total visits 1070.

68 notices served under the Housing Act. 50 notices under other Acts. Total notices 118, 114 informal, 4 statutory.

Houses inspected 745 to date. Overcrowded 59. Abated 8, leaving 51 still overcrowded.

In the Inspector's opinion, the only way to abate the overcrowding is for the Council to provide houses at a rental of not more than 3/- per week, as private enterprise cannot erect houses for that rental to get an adequate return.

The majority of cases of overcrowding reported are cases where the wages amount to less than £1 per week.

---

## GENERAL REMARKS.

There is a slight increase in the Birth Rate. The Death Rate has fallen from 12·9 to 10·3 per 1000. The average death rate for the Urban District of the County for 1912 was 12·3 per 1000.

The year was remarkable for the comparative freedom from Zymotic disease.

A large number of cases of measles occurred during the year. There were no deaths from this disease.

The Infant Mortality was low.

The Death Rate the lowest on record.

The outstanding features of the year from a Public Health point of view were :—

(1) The improvement in the water supply.

(2) The decision of the Council to overhaul the whole of the defective butt pipe sewers, which have been reported on in previous years.

An inspection of the district by the Local Government Board Inspector, resulted in his reporting as to the serious amount of overcrowding.

Table I. shows Vital Statistics of whole district during 1913 and previous years.

Table II. cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1913.

Table III. causes of, and ages at Death during 1913.

Table IV. Infant Mortality.

Table V. refers to the Factory Act.

In conclusion, I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the consideration they have shown me, and the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the detailed information and assistance he has given me in connection with the General Sanitary Report and the work done under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

**S. HILLIER, M.D.,**

Medical Officer of Health.

# TABLE I.

## Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

| Year. | Population estimated to Middle of each year. | Births. | | | Total Deaths Registered in the District. | | Transferable Deaths. | | Nett Deaths belonging to the District. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Uncorrected Number. | Nett. | | | | | | Under 1 Year of Age. | | At all ages. | |
| | | | Number. | Rate. | Number. | Rate. | Of Non-residents Registered in the District. | Of Residents not Registered in the District. | Number. | Rate per 1000 Nett Births. | Number. | Rate. |
| 1908 | 4162 | 99 | 99 | 23·7 | 54 | 12·9 | | 14 | 8 | 80·8 | 68 | 16·2 |
| 1909 | 4162 | 99 | 99 | 23·7 | 46 | 11·0 | | 8 | 7 | 70·7 | 54 | 12·9 |
| 1910 | 4162 | 76 | 76 | 18·2 | 45 | 10·8 | | 9 | 7 | 92·1 | 54 | 12·9 |
| 1911 | 4230 | 85 | 85 | 20·0 | 62 | 14·6 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 105 | 68 | 16·0 |
| 1912 | 4238 | 90 | 90 | 21·2 | 49 | 11·5 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 66·6 | 55 | 12·9 |
| 1913 | 4246 | 105 | 105 | 24·7 | 39 | 9·2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 47·5 | 44 | 10·3 |

Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) .. ... 1033.

Total population at all ages ... ... 4230.

Number of inhabited houses ... ... 1065.

Average number of persons per house ... ... 3·9.

# TABLE II.

**Cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1913.**

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE. | NO. OF CASES NOTIFIED. | | | | | | | | Total Cases removed to Hospital. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | At all ages. | At Ages—Years. | | | | | | | |
| | | Under 1. | 1 to 5 years. | 5 to 15 years. | 15 to 25 years. | 25 to 45 years. | 45 to 65 years. | 65 & upwards. | |
| Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ... ... | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| Erysipelas ... ... ... | 2 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis... | 7 | | | | 1 | 2 | 4 | | |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Totals ... ... | 12 | | 1 | | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | Nil |

Stowmarket Isolation Hospital, Bury Road. Total available beds ... 14

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated ... ... ... 2

# TABLE III.

## Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District. | | | | | | | | | Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All Ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 to 2 years. | 2 to 5 years. | 5 to 15 years. | 15 to 25 years. | 25 to 45 years. | 45 to 65 years. | 65 & upwards. | |
| Enteric Fever ... ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small-pox ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever ... ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whooping Cough ... ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria and Croup ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Influenza ... ... ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ... ... | 3 | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | |
| Tuberculous Meningitis ... | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Cancer, malignant disease | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | |
| Organic Heart Disease ... | 3 | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | |
| Bronchitis ... ... ... | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | |
| Appendicitis and Typhlitis | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... ... ... | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ... | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ... ... ... | 3 | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | |
| Suicide ... ... ... | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Other Defined Diseases ... | 10 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 5 | 3 | |
| Diseases ill-defined or unknown ... ... | 8 | 1 | | | | | | | 7 | |
| SUB-ENTRIES. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis | Nil | | | | | | | | | |
| Poliomyelitis ... ... | Nil | | | | | | | | | |
| All causes { Certified ... | 44 | 5 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | | 13 | 21 | Nil |
| All causes { Uncertified ... | Nil | | | | | | | | | Nil |

# TABLE IV.

**Infant Mortality during the Year 1913.**

**Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.**

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Under 1 week. | 1-2 weeks. | 2-3 weeks. | 3-4 weeks. | Total under 4 weeks. | 4 weeks and under 3 months. | 3 months and under 6 months. | 6 months and under 9 months. | 9 months and under 12 months. | Total Deaths under 1 year. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Convulsions ... ... | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ... ... | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | | 3 |
| Other Causes ... ... | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Totals ... ... | 2 | | | | | | 3 | | | 5 |

Births in the Year { legitimate ... ... 101
illegitimate ... ... 4

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants ... 5
illegitimate infants ... 0

# TABLE V.

**Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.**

## 1.—INSPECTIONS.

| Premises. | Number of Inspections. | Number of Written Notices. |
|---|---|---|
| Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... | 90 ... | 2 |

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

| Particulars. | Number of Defects. Found. | Number of Defects. Remedied. |
|---|---|---|
| Want of Ventilation ... ... ... ... ... | 2 ... | 2 |

## 3.—HOME WORK.

| Nature of Work. | Outworkers' Lists, Section 107. Lists received from Employers. Sending twice in the year. Lists. | Outworkers. Contractors. | Outworkers. Workmen. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wearing Apparel—making, &c. ... ... | 2 ... | 2 ... | 4 |

## 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Total Number of Workshops on Register ... ... ... ... ... 79

## 5.—OTHER MATTERS.

*Nil.*